

# ENGLISH PLEA FOR "RAGGING"

Hazing Has Its Advantages as a Means of Enforcing Obedience to College, Regimental, and Gun Room Ethics.

While a good deal of sympathy is expressed in behalf of Lieut. Col. David Kinloch, of the Grenadier Guards, in connection with his enforced retirement from one of the best commands in the service, for having failed to suppress "ragging" in his regiment, some should be extended to the three young subalterns whose subjection to messroom discipline has led to this drastic punishment of one of the most popular officers of the army. For in spite of their rank—one is the future Duke of Wellington, another the son and heir of Lord Belhaven, and the third a nephew of Lord de Saumarez—they will be blacklisted both from a military and a social point of view during the remainder of their lives. Their careers in the army are ruined, and it is extremely doubtful whether any reputable club would care to have them on its roster. In fact, they are doomed to a merciless boycott on the part of the very caste to which they belong, and will find themselves treated by every Englishman who has been at public school, at the university, in the navy or in the army, as pariahs. That is what the ill-considered and injudicious appeal of their respective mothers to Lady Roberts, the wife of the commander-in-chief of the army, has accomplished in their behalf.

"Ragging" is one of the time-honored and most cherished institutions of English army, navy, college and public school life. It is an institution which is restricted as far as schools are concerned to those educational establishments frequented by the classes, that is to say by lads of gentle birth, and there is little if any of it in the colleges of the lower middle classes, the grammar schools, etc., where, like flogging, it has been abolished. The aristocracy and the upper classes have always refused to take advantage of the laws, which have been enacted emancipating the pupils of the schools of a national, municipal and charitable character from the rod. Their attitude on the subject is attributable in part to the conservative instincts which are engrained in every Anglo-Saxon of good birth, whether Whig or Tory, and which render him averse to new forms or changes of a non-political character. It is due also to a desire on the part of the lads themselves, who are, of course, the principal parties concerned, to avoid being associated in any way with the common herd of boys, even when this association would involve exemption from flogging, and they would be the first to rebel against the abolition of the latter. As Lord Salisbury remarked on one occasion in the house of lords, speaking from personal experience, juvenile floggings "leave no traces of contamination," and it may be questioned whether the youths who have been educated at Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, and other of the great public schools of England do not regard the scars left by the birch as a sort of retrospective evidence of their "gentlemanly."

Here in America "ragging," flogging, and fagging are for the present unnecessary at the schools and colleges of the well-to-do. For born and bred in a democratic atmosphere, among democratic surroundings, the average American schoolboy enters upon his educational career with no exaggerated ideas concerning the superiority of his rank and his birth to those of his fellow-pupils. But in Great Britain it is different. The boy from the very nursery is reared to an exaggerated sense of the importance of his position, especially if he happens to be the son of titled parents, and, worse still, to be burdened with a title himself. It is not until he reaches school that he gets his bearings, and all the nonsense taken out of him, and where he acquires for the first time some notions of democracy, that is to say of the principle that all the lads of the school are on a footing of social equality.

This is accomplished by "ragging," that is to say by the infliction of schoolboy justice for the failure to comply with schoolboy ethics, by the floggings and birchings inflicted by the masters, and by fagging. Every boy, no matter whether a peer or a commoner, has to fag for one of the older lads during the first year of his school life. The duties of a fag are manifold. When I was acting in that capacity I was obliged to get up half an hour before the first bell rang to heat my master's shaving water over the gas jet, to fill his bath and to brush and lay out his clothes. During the course of the day I would be called upon to black his boots, to run errands for him, and to prepare and serve his tea in his study. Any delinquency in my service, or refusal to comply with my master's orders involved, first of all a thrashing from him, and then a birching from the head master. My spare hours between lessons and on half-holiday days were devoted to finding for him at cricket. Of course, he, being the master, kept the bat, and the idea of allowing a fag any incline being regarded as preposterous. Notwithstanding the disagreeable features of the mental service exacted from the fag, the system is excellent. It has a leveling tendency, which is the essence of republicanism. For when one finds a duke acting as a fag to a rich brewer's son, and a young marquis blacking the shoes of the offspring of a country parson, no one can complain that there is not equality among boys—at least among the boys of the classes.

It is a matter of schoolboy honor to submit without complaint to the "ragging," the fagging, and the flogging. The boys as a rule know beforehand what is in store for them. So do their parents, and their fathers, at any rate, who have been through the same mill themselves are not only willing but even desirous that their boys should enjoy the same advantages of training as themselves. And if in defiance of these ethics a lad were to invoke the intervention of his parents, and the latter were foolish enough to comply with his appeal and to

demand of the school authorities either redress or protection from schoolboy discipline for their son, he would be speedily sent to Coventry for the violation of schoolboy traditions, and subjected to such a merciless boycott as to render his removal from the school imperative.

These principles which prevail at school, and also at the universities, are to be found in force in the regimental messrooms and in the gun rooms of men of war. There is less "ragging" in the navy, however, than in the army. For whereas every naval officer has been through a two or three years' course of tuition on board the schoolship Britannia, there are plenty of military officers gazetted to the army who have not enjoyed the benefits of what is known in England as a public school training, but have perhaps been educated at home by private tutors, or abroad.

These are, as a rule, the victims of "ragging," which is used by their messmates to instill into their minds those notions and principles which they should have acquired by means of fagging, flogging, and hazing at school. It also happens that a young subaltern who has been brought up at sea, Winchester, may be gazetted to a regiment where most of the officers are Eton and Harrow men, in which case he might possibly be "ragged" for retaining certain mannerisms which while acceptable at Winchester are regarded as objectionable at Eton and Harrow.

It must thoroughly be understood that "ragging" in the army is not a matter of persecution, but of subaltern discipline. It is the means taken by young officers to enforce compliance with certain rules and regulations designed by themselves for their common benefit, and the disregard of which is productive of unpleasantness for all. It is the method likewise adopted in order to induce a fellow-officer who has shown himself uncooperative, and whose presence is regarded as detrimental to the prestige and to the smartness of the regiment, to seek his transfer to some other corps. Every clubman knows how

the presence of even one disagreeable and objectionable member is enough to disturb the comfort and the temper of everyone else belonging to the club. In the case of regimental life the conditions in this respect are infinitely worse.

The community of the messroom is much more close and necessarily more intimate than that of a club. A comrade who does not know how to render himself agreeable, or to show proper consideration for the prejudices, the views, and the wishes of his fellow-officers, is enough to sour the life of every other member of the mess, while the good name and the prestige of a regiment are far more likely to be affected by the attitude of one of its officers than that of a club by the behavior of any one of its members. "Ragging" in one word is a necessity as long as the system of regimental messes is maintained.

In days gone by when commanding officers were either consulted about the grant of commissions in their regiments, or were themselves entrusted with the nomination of subalterns to their various corps, there was but small necessity for "ragging." Nor is it heard of in those crack corps of the German and Austrian armies, where the applicant for a commission has to undergo a ballot on the part of the officers of the regiment precisely as if he were seeking admission to a club. For that, of course, constitutes a safeguard against the appointment of any uncooperative and objectionable youth to the corps. But as long as appointments are made without regard to the wishes of the commanders and officers of a regiment, "ragging" is bound to continue, in spite of all that pettifogging influence may do toward bringing about its abolition. It is not only an institution that is recognized and accepted by every well-born Englishman who has enjoyed the advantages of a public school education, but is likewise indispensable to the preservation of that sentiment which alike in school and college life, as well as in the army and navy, is known and justly valued as "esprit de corps." EX-ATTACHE.

## ATTRactions IN RETAIL STORES.

MESSRS. M. PHILIPSBORNE & CO., of New York and Chicago. This establishment will open the doors of their handsome store at 608-610 Eleventh Street. Their show rooms have been elaborately decorated similar to the style existing in their chain of stores in other cities. The establishment will be devoted exclusively to the sale of women's ready-to-wear outer garments.

THE HUB FURNITURE COMPANY are showing the advance styles in fur-

niture. You will find at this store many articles that will aid in improving the interior of the home.

ELLIS & CO.—Special offerings in pianos at exceedingly reasonable prices is one of the incentives to attract buyers to this store the coming week.

S. KANN SONS & CO.—The new spring novelties in silks is one of the interesting exhibits at the Busy Corner. Their house publication, "Fashions," for March, can now be had for the asking.

REINHARDT'S—Special bargains in every department will be one of the features for Monday shop at this store that satisfies.

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## BIOLOGISTS LEARN OF FARMING IN LIBERIA

Professor Cook Lectures at National Museum.

The tropical beauties of Liberia, as seen by a scientist, were profusely pictured in an illustrated lecture by Prof. O. F. Cook, of the Agricultural Department, yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Biological Society at the National Museum. The lecture was the third of a series of five given on Saturday afternoons under the auspices of the society. The views consisted principally of characteristic scenes in Liberia. In explaining them, Prof. Cook dwelt particularly on the scientific features, and pointed out their botanical value. One of the most interesting views was a picture showing a field of overgrown vegetation, which is one of the peculiar characteristics of agriculture in the country.

In the course of his remarks Prof. Cook spoke of the rapid strides of agriculture in Liberia. He said that the natives had proven themselves masters in this work, and declared that this industry in Liberia would rival the comparative showing of any other country, although their methods are, in many respects, extremely crude and primitive. In addition to these illustrations Prof. Cook also showed some freak pictures of scenes and incidents gathered in his five years' stay in that country.

### SHORT STORY CLUB.

At the meeting of the Short Story Club last Tuesday at the Riggs House an interesting program was rendered before a large and appreciative audience.

The story of the evening was by Thomas A. Broadus, entitled "Mr. Jones' Failure." Capt. W. W. Case told "About the Steamway Pioneer" by Eugene Field, and as a recall gave an Irish dialect recitation. Mabel Latimer sang a vocal solo, "Over Hill, Over Dale," by Cook, and responded with "Violets" for a recall. Helen Varick Boswell contributed two character sketches, "A New York Girl's First Experience in Office," and "What She Overheard on a Ferryboat." Laura Black sang two vocal solos, "Four-Leafed Clover," and "Mighty Like a Rose." Mrs. Mary Manly Raywood gave an arrangement of the trial scene of "The Merchant of Venice," and as an encore, some negro dialect selections: "Mary Wood sang 'The Rovers' and 'Annie o' the Bank o' Dee.' Miss Leeds was the accompanist of the vocalists. A. B. Weed gave an original "Dinky Sketch."

### PROGRAM FOR THE BLIND.

The following volunteers will participate in the program arranged to be given during the week from 2.30 to 3.30 p. m. in the reading room for the blind at the Library of Congress: Monday—Mrs. Thomas R. Reed. Tuesday—Mrs. J. H. McGee. Wednesday—Musical: Miss Doris soprano; Miss Edna Horne, alto; Miss Mary Wood, tenor; Miss E. E. Rastus. Thursday—Mrs. May W. Reed. Saturday—Pupils of Fairmont school.

## ASSISTANT APPRAISER AT NEW YORK ASKED TO RESIGN

No Reason Assigned for Action Against J. P. Spillman.

Secretary Shaw this afternoon by telegraph requested J. P. Spillman, assistant appraiser in the port of New York, to resign. No charges were preferred against Mr. Spillman, he was merely asked to resign "for the good of the service."

The department refused to give out any reason for this action. Should Mr. Spillman refuse, however, to send in his resignation, it is probable that charges would be brought against him.

## UNITED STATES PENSION AGENCY IN NEW QUARTERS

The United States Pension Agency has been removed from the southeast corner of Fourth and F Streets northwest to the Citizens' National Bank Building, opposite the Treasury, on Fifteenth Street. Arrangements for depositing quarterly pension vouchers will be made.

## To-Kalon Wines.



How to Get Pure Wines.

The To-Kalon Wines are grown in our own California vineyards. They are perfectly aged and have a full, fruity flavor, delicious to the connoisseur and refreshing to the sick. Sherry, Port, and Sweet Catawba Wines.

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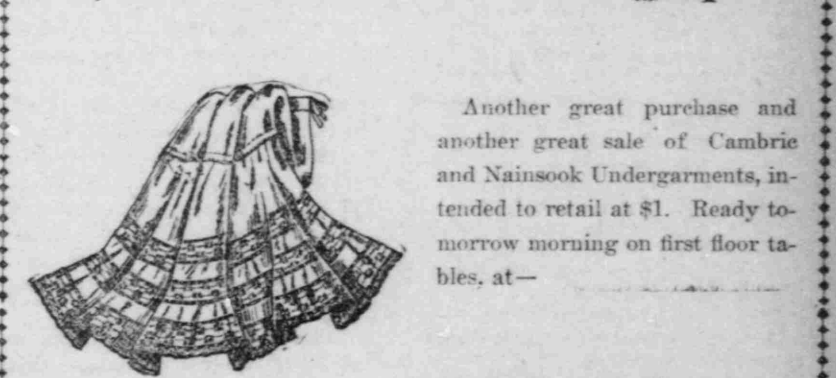
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All Mail Orders Will Be Filled Promptly at the Sale Prices.

## A New Record of Jewelry Sacrifice.

This sale will be reckoned as the limit of accomplishment in Jewelry underselling. Never in the history of the business has such a wholesale sacrifice been made—all the more remarkable from the fact that the cost of many lines of Jewelry is advancing all the time, particularly Diamonds. It has been stated that diamonds bought now will double in value in three years. The time for investment is just ripe. Already this sale has made a record—a great record. News of the sacrifice of goods of such staple value spreads rapidly, and people are too shrewd nowadays to pass opportunities that mean savings of about 40 per cent.

<p><b>Diamond Rings</b>—in Tiffany settings—our own importations of diamonds—mounted up in our own factory—no there's no middleman's profit. We guarantee to save you at least 40 per cent.</p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$10 up.</b></p>	<p><b>Ladies' and Gentlemen's Solid Gold Signet Rings</b>—engraved as you want them—over 400 styles to select from—to go at about half the usual prices.</p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$3 up.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Ladies' Brooches</b> in all the latest designs—all solid 14-karat gold, set with pearls, rubies, amethysts and other precious stones—at about half the usual prices.</p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$1.50 up.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Ladies' and Gentlemen's Vest and Lorgnette Chains</b>—in all the new effects. The ladies' chains set with pearls, amethysts and sapphires. Most all about half price—others are less than half price.</p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$8 up.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>
<p><b>Ladies' and Gentlemen's Gold Bracelets</b>—for monograms and initials—many of them studded with diamonds.</p> <p><b>Worth from \$6 up.</b></p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$3 up.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Over 3,000 Ladies' and Gentlemen's Watches</b> in solid 14-karat gold—Elgin or Waltham movements, and the famous Castberg Watch for Railroad Men included—at just about half what like goods cost elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Ladies' Watches, \$15 up</b> <b>Men's Watches, \$20 up</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Over 5,000 pairs of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Cuff Buttons</b>—all pure solid gold—we handle no plated goods.</p> <p><b>Worth from \$5 up.</b></p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$2.50 up.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>About 500 Diamond Pendants</b>—nearly all of them original designs—set with selected first-water diamonds (not chips).</p> <p><b>Worth \$70 to \$1,000.</b></p> <p><b>Sale Prices, \$46 to \$690</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>
<p><b>Ladies' Rings</b> in the latest rose gold settings—the only the highest quality—now, \$6 to \$26 values, in the sale at</p> <p><b>\$3.25 to \$12.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Gentlemen's Solid 14-karat Gold Shirt Studs</b> (sets of 3)—over 1,000 sets in the lot. The very best made goods, that sell regularly for from \$4 to \$12. In this sale at</p> <p><b>\$2.25 to \$7.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Diamond Pendants</b>—4 karats of pure white diamonds—set in the latest style. A \$400 diamond piece in this sale at</p> <p><b>\$233.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>	<p><b>Diamond Cluster Rings</b>, with turquoise center stone, set around with first water diamonds—up to the minute in style. A \$100 Ring in the sale—</p> <p><b>\$62.00.</b></p> <p>Think it over!</p>

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